

II. Claims 8 and 9, drawn to time of flight ranging system having a transducer for emitting energy pulses and coupling reflected energy pulses, classified in class 342, subclass 123.

III. Claims 10-17, drawn to a pulse-echo acoustic ranging system, classified in class 362, subclass 87.

In response to the Examiner's restriction/election requirement, Applicant elects, with traverse, to prosecute Group III including claims 10-17. Applicant specifically reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to non elected claims 1-7 and 8-9.

With respect to Applicant's traversal, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to M.P.E.P. § 803 which states:

"If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine on the merits, even though it includes claims too distinct or independent invention." (emphasis added)

There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction. The invention should be independent or distinct, and

"2) there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if a restriction is not required. See M.P.E.P. §803.092, 806.04 A through J, 808.01(a) and 808.02."

Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner would not be unduly burdened if forced to examine Groups II and III.

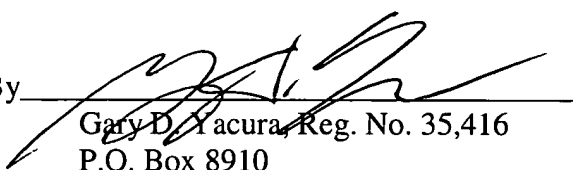
For all of the above stated reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding restriction/election requirement and favorable allowance of all claims in the instant application are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By



Gary D. Yacura, Reg. No. 35,416
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000

GDY:jcp